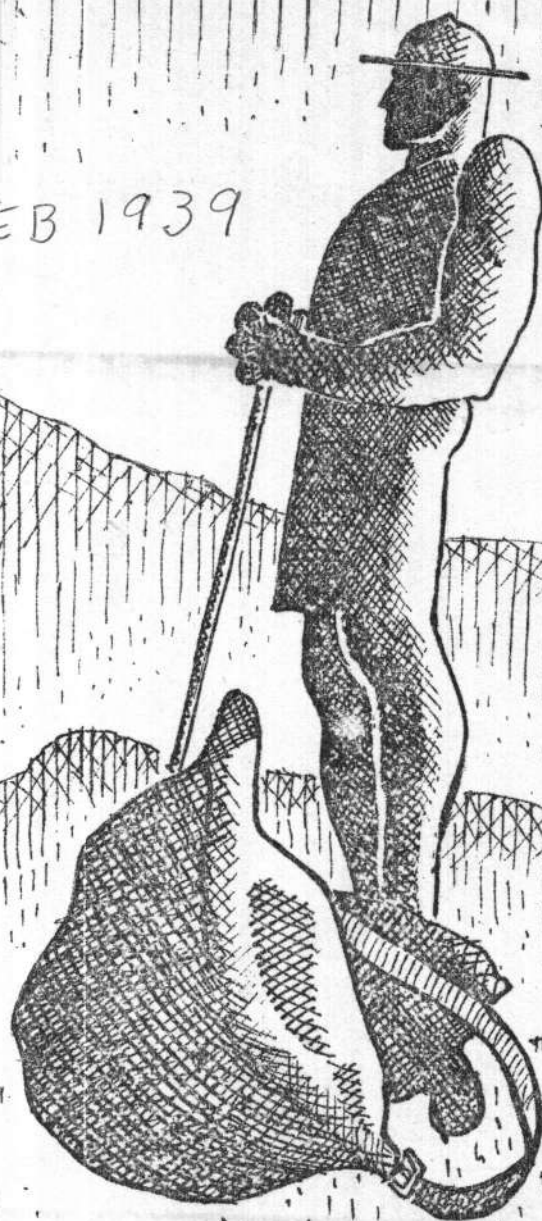


FEB 1939



VELD TRAILS

VELD TRAILS

(OFFICIAL ORGAN OF TRANSVAAL ROVERS)

VOL. 2.

FEBRUARY 1939

NO. 2.

SUBSCRIPTION 2/6 PER ANNUM

EDITORIAL LICENCE

This month you notice that we have again succeeded in getting into print a few days earlier, and by the time our March issue is delivered we should have our regular system working properly. From March onwards we will come out on the fifth of every month.

We are also continuing our policy of making the rag more of a newspaper, and groups which wish to have accounts of functions published should send them in plenty of time. But let me emphasise what was said in the article on "Publicity" two months ago -- we want NEWS, not nonsense.

Your attention is drawn to the article by "Onlooker" this month. He writes with Apathy as his theme, and there are many Crews and Rovers in the Transvaal who could profit by taking his tip.

We also urge Crews to assist us with the cover competition, and to co-operate in the Crew Hike Exchange scheme.

Perhaps most important of all, every Rover should read his "Veld Trails" thoroughly -- as the organ of a live body it contains information and announcements of importance to all members.

Should anyone complain to you that he has not received his copy of the magazine this month, you might point out to him that the reason is probably because he

has not paid his subscription. It is equally useless for Crews to write to the committee ordering copies of the magazine without enclosing a postal order -- we need the money to produce the paper before we can distribute it.

There has also been a distressing lack of contributions to the paper. As the official organ, "Veld Trails" is your mouthpiece, and gives YOU the opportunity of expressing your opinions in print. Our object is not only to provide a little light reading each month, but to provide a paper which will act as a link between all Transvaal Crews, and which will bind us into a strong and united body.

Yours in Scouting,
Claude L. Cook.
Editor.

VELD TRAILS

Veld Trails is the Official organ of the Transvaal Rover Branch of the Boy Scout Movement. It is published monthly, and the subscription, payable strictly in advance, is 2/6 per annum. All copy should be in the hands of the Editor by the 20th of the month previous to publishing.

Veld Trails' address is
23, Orchard Road,
Orchards.....JOHANNESBURG.

SUPPORT YOUR MAGAZINE ROVERS.

a beetle. Anyway, that's Art.

The M.C. tolls the bell, and the scrap is on. Madly the dices rattle in the boxes and go spinning on to the tables; the players watch wide-eyed and breathless; it goes from hand to hand--- at last! a six..... Female voices shrill; the din is terrific; everybody getting hot under the collar:

"We only need the legs, partner; five, no good dash it; only want a two."

Excitement runs high. At last someone shouts triumphantly at the top of his lungs "Beetle." The bell crashes out; and the first round is over.

This dear laddies, is carried on for an hour or so; then you gulp down a cup of tea, and again the play is on.

For sheer wrecking of the nerve tissues, and the absorption to the maximum energy in the minimum of time, this game takes a bit of beating but it is really good fun -- at least the girl-friend seems to think so.

"DUMBELL".

VELD TRAILS COVER COMPETITION

PERMANENT DESIGN WANTED

In last month's issue of "Veld Trails" we announced our decision to adopt a permanent and attractive cover for the magazine. This will make our publication more distinctive, especially if we have the covers printed on a better quality paper, and in addition it will in the end mean a saving of costs and will cut out one process through which the magazine has to go every month. The less processes we have to go through, the more likely are readers to get their magazine on time.

NO SUPPORT FROM CREWS.

In spite of the fact that we announced the competition and gave illustrations of what we wanted, reproductions of five previous covers on the front of the magazine, not one Rover in the whole of Johannesburg, the Reef or Pretoria has had sufficient energy to send in an entry. It is to be hoped that this position will be remedied before the closing date for the competition, which is February 20.

Entries may be made in any medium - pen, pencil, crayon or paint, and should be sent to the editor as soon as possible. The only essentials are that the cover design should incorporate the words "Veld Trails." and should make some provision for the insertion of the date.

The committee's decision will be final. A prize is offered for the accepted design.

"SCOUTING & CITIZENSHIP"

CLR. J.W.WATT. Presents 1st HILL COLOURS

Scouting as a training ground for citizenship was referred to by Councillor J.W. Watt when he presented the new colours to the 1st Hill Boy Scout Troop at the Regents Park School on Saturday afternoon. In presenting the two South African National flags, Mr. Watt said:-

"The more I see of Scouting, the more am I impressed with what I have missed in not being connected with the Movement.

Scouting seems to be a great game; a game which, in the playing, brings not only a great deal of amusement and pleasure but which teaches you a lot of useful things in this world.

"It teaches you discipline; to take the good with the bad, and to come up smiling. Perhaps most important of all, it prepares you for the important years ahead, and fits you to take a fair share in the responsibility of governing this country of ours.

"This National Flag of South Africa I want you to respect as a symbol of our peace and national unity -- you must be proud of it. The other, the Union Jack, is the flag of the British Empire, of which our country is a proud member. Should any member of that Empire need help, it is our duty to go to their aid. That flag stands for liberty and justice, and where it flies we know the people will get a square deal."

The Troop Flag was consecrated by the Rev. J.W. Watson, and presented to the Troop by Divisional Commissioner Percival Whiteley, O.B.E., D.S.O.

The ceremony was opened by the playing of "Die Stem van Suid Afrika" and concluded with "The King".

Scout officials present included Mr. K.N. Fleischer, Divisional Secretary, and Mr. J. Fotheringham, District Commissioner for Johannesburg South.

"Cobber, it's up to me and you
To see that half his dreams come true..."

There is a general move throughout the world today to bring the people back to the Church. A challenge has been issued by Earl Baldwin not only to the people of the British Isles, but to the whole British Empire to honour the God of their forefathers, the God of each succeeding race. The people of the world were losing their grip - they had nothing to hold on to. Their sheet anchor had been wrenched away and they were drifting into the mad maelstrom of hopelessness and despair.

Beneath the gaiety and laughter of the Lambeth Walk and Palais Glide, in the midst of singing "Happy Days are here again" there came the thought and feeling of something lost, something forgotten. Boil it all down into one word - Faith. They had lost their faith - whether in God or themselves does not matter but here they were bobbing about on a sea of Restlessness like so many corks. They tried to cover this hopeless outlook with artificial laughter and light words - Live and be merry - You're a Long time dead - and so forth, but it was leading them nowhere and they knew it, but while the band kept playing and the crooner mourned his heartbreaks into the mike they lingered. It didn't matter - it must come right in the end.....what a hope, what apathy.

I venture to draw a parallel with this state of affairs and the Rovering section of the Scout Movement.

Apathy has got our Rovers in its clutches. They have no faith in the game. It is only a means of passing away an evening or so - good company - a bit of service - a good few dances - and that's where it all ends. Let the willing horses do the hard work. Forget your subs., your unanswered letters, your part in the programme, Rovers. Someone will step in and do the needful, why should you worry. Haven't you condescended to join up - isn't that enough? Apathy! What a pity! Where is the faith and the vision that B.P. had and which he handed down into your safekeeping to mould into something worthwhile, something big and splendid? It's buried deep down in the dirt of apathy.

Supposing the Chief walked in to your crew meeting and asked you as an individual what you were doing for Rovering what would you, what could you say? Could you give

him an answer which would convince him that what he had planned so long ago was bearing fruit - or would he just smile at you sadly and pass you by?

Work it out! Have you faith in Rovering? Do you honestly believe it can do - is doing something in the world of young men today. And then if you have that faith, do something; for faith without works is dead - and if a thing is dead it is of no use at all.

"ONLOOKER".

"MODERATION" by

On occasions a patient has been issuing from a hospital, stopping halfway down the steps to take a good swallow from a medicine bottle recently dispensed. A treatment which is good in moderation may be a poison in excess, and an excellent heart tonic, in small doses, may actually have alarming results in large quantities. In the same way, the effects of sunshine can do serious harm.

How often have young people on holiday exposed themselves to the sun over too long a period thinking they cannot have too much of a good thing, with the result that they repent at leisure and suffer from burning skin, headaches, fever blisters and tummy upsets and these unpleasant symptoms can shorten the holiday's enjoyment.

The sun's rays are most beneficial in small doses, which must, however, only be increased by very easy stages. A small area of the body only should be subjected to the direct rays and only over a short period. Fair people, or those with reddish hair, tolerate the rays badly in comparison with those with dark hair and skin, so caution and moderation are all the more advisable in the former.

It is wonderful how the body shows frequent proof of being a self-regulating machine. In warm weather a constant cooling evaporation is brought about by perspiration, whereas in cold weather the skin allows less blood to circulate through the contracted blood vessels which are exposed to the cool air. Owing to our capacity for accommodating ourselves to our surroundings, we should accustom ourselves to differences of climate and should also realize that it

is wrong to be overprotected from them, for even cold, heat, wind and rain are beneficial, as long as the exposure is not too rigorous or severe, moreover occasionally the body should be subjected to hardships which have to be overcome. Even hunger and fatigue are good for us in moderation. A young tree, subjected to occasional wind, grows a strong, stout stem instead of the soft structure which would result if it were too much protected.

MONTHLY MEETING OF TRANSVAAL ROVER SCOUT

COMMITTEE

VELD TRAILS & THURSDAY LUNCH CLUB

DISCUSSED.

The Editor,
Veld Trails,
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Sir,

On Tuesday evening, 17th January, the Transvaal Rover Scout Committee held its second meeting at the Y.M.C.A., Johannesburg. 12 Representatives attended also the chairman and deputy chairman, Messrs. R.B. Hogg, D/C and A. Nimmo respectively.

A deal of work was got through after the roll had been called and apologies received. Whilst on this point I would like to ask that crews make it a point of honour to apologise for non attendance. However, we hope to get into touch with all crews personally in the near future and no doubt matters will become easier.

Veld Trails was the centre of discussion for some time. So far 67 subscriptions have been received and by the time this goes into print there will certainly be more. However, it was decided by the Committee that funds for the running of the magazine had to be found. More will be heard about this next month but meantime the Pretoria crews are considering ways and means and then when they have come to a decision its up to the Transvaal crews to support Pretoria who have so often supported Johannesburg and District in their schemes.

The committee was informed also that

Veld Trails intended publishing portion of the magazine in Afrikaans. This scheme was warmly welcomed by the Committee and we wish you success in that direction.

The weekly Lunch Club came in for criticism. It was felt that an organised effort be made to run the Club on more formal lines and have talks and discussions at this hour. Some members seemed to think this would entail some extra brain energy but were relieved when the deputy chairman explained matters more fully.

Then a new scheme has come forward. The suggestion that a "Hike Bureau" be established at Headquarters was made in Veld Trails last issue. The Committee have acted upon this and A. Hartley has been appointed manager of the Bureau. Crews are asked to tabulate their favourite hikes and send them into the G.M. More of that anon, however.

Several other small matters relating to the constitution were brought up but no excitement prevailed. Tea was not served but Ginger Toner is to see to that next meeting - so he says.

In closing the Committee wish to stress the need for co-operation in the work now going on and thank those distant crews who put in an appearance.

Yours sincerely,
A.I. Robertson.
HON. SECRETARY.

ARRANGING YOUR CAMP GRUB LIST

A little bit of system when arranging the grub lists can make all the difference between a successful, well-run camp and one of those horrible affairs where everyone staggers around for the last few days on an unbalanced diet of mielie-meal and raw onions. It is all very well for some of our tougher members to pack up their pound of tobacco and their bottle of beer and hike off into the blue for a month or two, but when you are arranging the grub for the crew as a whole or even more especially for a troop or pack, it is a definite obligation to see that every ingredient is provided for every meal and every detail is arranged.

The system which we have always found practical is run on these lines;

Start by writing out a detailed menu for every meal with due regard to a balanced diet, time taken to cook etc. Against each meal write down exactly what quantity of each thing will be required. From this you make a total list of everything that will be required which you now divide equally amongst the chaps who are going out. Try to make weights as well as costs as nearly as possible equal.

A great advantage of this system is that, if every fellow brings exactly the same things, it does not matter how many drop out or join in at the last moment - you still have enough of everything to see you through.

One snag, as far as the Rover Leader or whoever is running the camp is concerned, is that the person in charge must take out enough paper bags or other containers to hold all the food when collected. It is useless trying to cook a meal properly when you have every ingredient separated into about twenty small bags.

Perhaps this example, although not perfect in itself will help to make clear the principle of the system.

The list given is for a week-end camp for ten chaps

SUPPER SATURDAY NIGHT.

Fried steak, Mashed Potato and Peas
Broad, Butter and Tea.

This is a good substantial meal but does not take very much time or trouble to prepare.

CAMP FIRE

Cocoa and biscuits

BREAKFAST ON SUNDAY MORNING

Some type of Cereal Breakfast Food.

Eggs and Bacon. Bread and Coffee.

LUNCH SUNDAY MID-DAY

Fruit Salad Bread and Tea.

The total list of what is required will now be as follows:-

	REQUIRED	EACH BRINGS
Rump Steak	4 lbs	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb (slight surplus)
Potatoes	3 lbs	$\frac{1}{3}$ lb
Peas	3 lbs	$\frac{1}{3}$ lb
na Bread	3 loaves	$\frac{1}{2}$ loaf
Butter	$\frac{1}{4}$ lb.	bought by S/M
Tea	$\frac{1}{4}$ lb	1 oz. (tablespoon)
Sugar	$\frac{1}{2}$ lbs	2d. worth
Milk	2 Tins Condensed if no fresh obtainable	bought by S/M
Pepper Salt and Lard	small quantity each	
Cocoa	$\frac{1}{4}$ lb	1 Tablespoon
Biscuits	$\frac{1}{4}$ lb	bought
Breakfast Cereal	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb	each bring requirements
Eggs	10	2
Coffee	$\frac{1}{4}$ lb	$\frac{1}{2}$ tablespoon
Fruit Mixed for Salad	5 lbs	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb.

In addition to the grub, each fellow should contribute 6d. to pay for condensed milk, jam, biscuits, etc.

By adopting this scheme, it is possible to have every meal just as you planned it --- that is provided you don't forget to bring out sufficient cooking utensils to do the job

B.E.C.

A MONOPED RUMINATES

I lost my leg a long while ago now and have experienced many surprising incidents caused thro' this alleged affliction.

I was once asked to visit a batchelor Brass Hat at his house about lunch time and on presenting myself at the door, Jim Fish told me the boss wished me to go in - that he was at lunch.

He pointed down a long polished passage to a room, the door of which was open. I stepped on a small mat - sat down hurriedly - and tobogganed in to the August Presence on a Magic Carpet, so to speak, thereby creating a most unusual impression.

Years ago, when farming, I was taking fowl-food up a steepish hill to some birds in a building at the top, carrying the grain in a petrol tin on my head. I forgot the pet goat, who know all about what was in the tin! He got impatient with me for not giving him what he thought was his share and charged me,

fair and square, in the rear, knocking me flat, incidently shooting the grain out so that he could help me to pick up, which he did with surprising rapidity.

When wearing old clothes, I often knock my pipe out on the wooden thigh, greatly to the consternation of dear old ladies who apparently don't know whether I am a real HE man or a monstrosity.

Once, when on my crutches, I had a ticklish job. I came across a girl sprawled on the ground in a "half" faint. It's remarkably awkward to lift a person who is about as stiff as a piece of string and weighs about 150 lbs., when you've only one leg to stand on! But she was right in the way of oncoming traffic so it had to be done somehow.

I lost my leg overseas, and on the boat, before I got my artificial limb, I travelled to England with the Royal Welsh Choir. I spent most of my time with them and we used to sit on dock and sing and

sing - and I can tell you they could sing too. A year or two after, the Choir toured this country and came to the mine that I was then working on.

I had just been married and of course took my wife to the concert. I told the wife during the performance, that I should like to go, after the show was over, to speak to the girls which she encouraged me to do saying she preferred to wait for me in the auditorium.

I went round and just before reaching the Green Room met one of the members, one who was very small but who had a glorious contralto voice.

"Ah!" says I, "It's the mighty Atom", a name I had dubbed her on the boat. She couldn't at first realise things as now I had two legs apparently but soon tumbled to it and took me back to the crowd inside.

They were being regaled with cakes and minerals by the Mayoress and the Parson's wife, who's husband had recently married me. This good lady evidently thought that I was getting too familiar with the Choir as she sailed up to me and said so sweetly, "Good evening, Mr. B. and where is your charming little wife?"

Fortunately I had by this time told the girls that I was married and had left my wife down stairs, so I winked at the girls and carried on.

The time when I think that I felt my loss most was when I was driving a buggy and saw about 50-60 yards ahead an unattended pram with a baby in it, start to run into the gutter. I realised that I could not get to the thing in time to avert an accident and just had to see it happen. Like a lot of things in this life, it was not so bad as was anticipated, and although the pram turned turtle all right, the baby was not hurt. But for a few seconds I certainly suffered mental torment.

"POP"

CREW FLASHES

1st ST. PATRICK'S CREW.

Crew doing some work, strange but true. The Den needed painting, papering and scrubbing badly, so the Crew have started on the job, and hope to get finished soon. We wish Skipper a very pleasant holiday, and take this opportunity of wishing the T.R.S.C.

every success in its undertakings, and send wholehearted assurances of our support whenever needed.

Owing to the pressure of work the Crew finds it impossible to answer any challenges, but we trust the time will come when we will see the members of the challenging crews in hospital.

In addition to showing a nice Scouty spirit about their challengers, 1st St. Pat's seem to be one of the few Crews with sufficient energy to send in a regular flash -- Ed.

1st ORANGE GROVE.

Still going strong, and being horribly harried by the editor for contributions. Getting ready for another dance later in the month, and also steadily rehearsing for the N/E District Annual General Meeting, which promises to provide histrionic Amusement out of the ordinary at Scout shows. Undertook a leasurly Crew hike to Bedford Farm, where we swam and studied form.

PARKVIEW.

Busy month for the Crew. Working on the den-ceiling. Average attendance at meetings 19 or 20 in uniform. Played St. Johns cricket and beat them up by an innings and 120 runs..

Scribe: E. Hobbs,
5 Goring Avenue,
Auckland Park.

1st. BELLEVUE ROVER SCOUT CREW

Altho' not officially closed for the month, the crew was pretty moribund. We had a good month in December which included a talk from Mr. Maldwyn Edmund on Municipal Government, which was both well attended and appreciated.

On December 21st we visited the Central Fire Station. Mr. Dickson 2nd. in command, showed and explained everything to us from the ground to the top of the tower and we had a fine time. As luck would have it, just as we came away, the Alarm rang and we were able to see the engine and tender turn out in record time. We certainly very much enjoyed the evening and, I think, came away with a greater respect for "our" Brigade.

We have welcomed two new members,

Jack Simpkins from the Aliwal Road Crew, Durban, and Don Teucher, a lone Rover from Southern Rhodesia.

At our last meeting, Kotjie (J.H. Lillico) our R/S/L. dropped a bomb in telling us that he was resigning both as R/S/L. and G/S/M.

He is so much away from home now that he feels he cannot keep it up. We persuaded him to remain as G/S/M, but have to get a new Rover leader.

HEADQUARTERS NOTICE.

The Executive Committee of the South Africa Scout Council has appointed Mr. Percival Whiteley, O.B.E., D.S.O., as Divisional Commissioner of the Transvaal Division vice Sir Reginald Blankenberg, K.B.E., resigned, with effect from the 27th January 1939.

The Divisional Commissioner has been pleased to appoint Mr. A. Nimmo as Assistant District Commissioner seconded for Rover Scout duties with effect from the 1st February 1939.

The Proposed new Rover Rules were discussed by the South Africa Scout Council, and it was felt preferable that Rover Crews should experiment for a further period along the lines suggested by the new Rules before incorporating them into P.O.R. It was, therefore, agreed that the proposed Rover Rules be left in abeyance for another year, after which the Council would again ask Rover Crews for their opinions.

The Transvaal Scout Council passed a resolution of thanks and appreciation for the work done by Rover Leader Paul Gardner.